



**Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Israel C. Patoka, Executive Director**

**Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
E. Keith Colston, Administrator**

The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs coordinates programs and projects to further the cultural, educational, economic and social development of Maryland's diverse Indian communities. The Commission also works to promote public awareness and appreciation of contributions American Indians have made to life in Maryland.

October 30, 2009

**CONTACT:
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MCIA Administrator
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American Indian Heritage Month Kicks Off
Event to Launch Activities around the State

The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs will sponsor a program launching the observance of American Indian Heritage Month in Maryland at 12:00 p.m. on November 2, 2009 in the lobby of the Herbert R. O'Connor Building, 201 W. Preston St. The program will feature cultural song and dance performances. Leo Taddeo, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI and Arlene Gist, Deputy Director, DHMH, Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities are among the guest speakers. Vendors offering American Indian cuisine will also be on hand.

American Indian Heritage Month in Maryland is recognized in conjunction with the national celebration. In November 1990 a joint resolution was approved by the President of the United States designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Proclamations are made each year by the President declaring the heritage month celebration. The first American Indian Day recognized by a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the Governor of New York.

This year, the observance of the second American Indian Heritage Day holiday will be a part of the American Indian Heritage Month celebration in Maryland. During the 2008 general session, the Maryland General Assembly approved House Bill 83 making the Friday after Thanksgiving a legal holiday recognizing the proud history, rich cultural heritage and vital contributions of American Indians to the state of Maryland.

For more information on American Indian Heritage Month or the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, call 410-767-7491 or log on to www.americanindian.maryland.gov.

WHAT: Launch of American Indian Heritage Month Activities
WHEN: Monday, November 2, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.
WHERE: Herbert R. O'Connor Building, 201 W. Preston St. (main lobby)

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